



SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

Slopes News

June 2007
Volume 9 Issue 6

President: Brad Palmisiano
Vice President: Joe Balaban

Treasurer: Claudia Hart
Secretary: Kate Fink

Next Meeting June 19th

Please join us at 7:00pm to hear our guest speaker, Zone 3 Commander Larry Ross. He will update us on Crime in the South Side. You need not be a member to attend. Light refreshments will be available.

Update from the Mayor...

Dear Citizens,

In March I convened a town meeting with representatives of our City departments in attendance to listen to your concerns and develop the most effective response plan. You asked for an end to the constant disruption from Southside partygoers that is negatively affecting your quality of life. I walked the streets with your community leaders at 1AM, and I saw first hand the problems that you face. On April 13th, 2007 my office, working in concert with Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, the State Police and other public safety entities, implemented Operation Sweep (Southside Weekend Enforcement and Education Patrols) to combat crime in the Southside Flats. We increased the number of officers in the club areas and also increased the number of foot, bicycle, motorcycle and car patrols.

I am proud to inform you of the tremendous progress that has been made since April to reduce crime in the Southside Flats. In just a short two months Operation Sweep has achieved:

- 252 Disorderly conduct citations 196 of which were public urination citations
- 143 Traffic Stops
- 128 Traffic Citations
- 136 Parking Citations

- 29 bars have been cited by Liquor Control Enforcement

In addition, there was a 98% increase in the number of DUI arrests over the past two months. The increase translates into 41 arrests in April and May 2007 in comparison to the 21 arrests that were made in April and May of last year. The number of drug arrests increased by 40% for the same time period.

We are sending a message of zero tolerance. Last week alone there were six arrests for underage drinking and five DUI arrests. This City has had enough. We are doing everything we can to deter crime, but we need you to continue dialing 9-1-1 as soon as you witness criminal activity.

The process of change will not happen overnight. Many college students live and play in the Southside and more must be done to hold them accountable. Duquesne is setting a precedent with its shuttle services and legal review board process for student law violations. We are convening Universities to seek their cooperation in addressing the issue of student conduct in our neighborhoods. We need your continued support to make this partnership with universities a reality.

You, the citizens of Southside, have been eyes and ears for our police force. You have answered our call to rise up together and say 'No More. Not in our streets. Not in our backyards.' I thank you for your dedication to your neighborhood and encourage your continued communication with my office and other city departments.

Your concern reflects a growing confidence in our public safety system. I thank you for your trust and initiative as we work together to make the Southside Flats the safe family-oriented community that we envision.

Sincerely, Luke Ravenstahl,
Mayor City of Pittsburgh

Meeting Schedule 2007!

*June 19th (3rd Tuesday)

July 10th – Dining Room

September 11th

October 9th

November 13th

December 11th – Dining Room

South Side Plan Meeting

An important announcement is that the next South Side Neighborhood Plan Update Town Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 27th, from 7 – 9 PM at the Market House.

Please attend to ask questions or give comments. A copy of the South Side Neighborhood plan can be found at www.SouthSidePgh.com.

Board of Directors!

The 2007 Board Members are...

Joe Balaban	1999-present
Misi Bielich	2006-present
Beverly Boggio	1998-present
Joe Ciccola	2002-present
Kate Fink	2005-present
Claudia Hart	2002-present
Paul Lorincy	2005-present
Brad Palmisiano	2004-present
Matt Schaefer	2006-present
Janice Serra	2000-present
Donald Ware	2005-present

Each can be reached at their email address firstname.lastname@SouthSideSlopes.org

Committees 2007!

The following are the 2007 SSSNA Committees and their chairpersons:

Beautification	Joe Ciccola
Cleanups & Safety	Paul Lorincy
Elm Street	Fr. Don Ware
Finance & Development	Joe Balaban
Housing & Zoning	Brad Palmisiano
Outreach	Misi Bielich
StepTrek	Bev Boggio

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

SSSNA has been working on upgrades to our website. We now have a new look with more real-time updates. It is very exciting and full of photos!

Committee Reports:

Elm Street Committee

The committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at the SSLDC offices. The following information is what happened at the May meeting. Thanks, Judy for the minutes!

Pius Monument - We have given Pashek the okay to move the Pius Monument forward. They assure us that the project can/will be completed by the end of June.

Monastery Garden – We have still not received the contracts from Vento. We will continue to follow up.

Litter Awareness – We have completed all four areas of the program. We mailed to 612, the post office returned 141 for one reason or another, and we received 94 completed surveys, so our response rate was 20%. Good Job Slopes!! At PRC's request, we averaged the responses of questions 4 – 18 (they are the ones from Keep America Beautiful). This gives us a base score to compare to when we conduct the survey next year.

South 18th – We've asked Quantapoint to expand their proposal to include the step columns. DPW also would like to be on site with Quantapoint to see if an alternate solution to our expensive step repair can be determined.

We welcome anyone who wants to volunteer as a greeter who will help folks find their way to the meeting. You should arrive at ~6:45pm. Call or email Bev.

Lighting work completed on 10th Street Pedestrian Bridge!

The electricity to the lights on the 10th Street pedestrian bridge was switched on May 17, allowing the new lighting fixtures to illuminate the pedestrian stairs and span across the railroad tracks at 10th Street. Bob Kripp placed a lock on the fused switch box to prevent vandals from tampering with it.

Also last month, Matuszak Brothers, the electrical contractor for the project, had moved the lighting to the side and installed vandal resistant fixtures, as originally planned. Engineering consultant Tom Carlins reviewed the completed wiring installation and confirmed that it was constructed as specified.

In addition, Matuszak Brothers installed a fused disconnect switch at the 15th Street pedestrian bridge. The lighting there has been in operation for a few years. The addition of the fused switches on both bridges resolved concerns the city had of a vandal causing damage to the electrical wiring, which could energize the steel bridge and cause injury to pedestrians. As designed, the fuses would automatically disconnect the electrical power source should anyone try to vandalize the conduits that carry the wires.

The city is in the process of repairing the railing at the 15th Street bridge that vandals had pulled from its anchors. We ask that neighbors in the vicinities of both bridges keep a watch and report vandals to the police.

Joe Balaban

Garden Planting!

*Josephine and Barry Street Garden
Saturday, May 12th at 9am*



Volunteers work hard planting the Barry & Josephine Streets WPC Garden!



Joe Ciccola, Barry Garden Steward



The planting begins!



DeAnn is ready for a morning of planting



Beautiful planting weather!



Vera Nee & Janice Serra
Josephine and Greeley Street Garden
Saturday, May 26th at 9am



Thank you, volunteers!



Brad Palmisiano & Matt Schaefer lay out the watering tape the evening before.



Bev Boggio, Greeley Garden Steward, secures & checks the watering system.





Josephine & Greeley Garden work 5/26.



Slopes Cleanup
Saturday, May 5th at 9am



Volunteers of all ages!



StepTrek Committee



The StepTrek Committee is meeting monthly. We have chosen a date and theme...**October 14th, 2007 from Noon to 4pm!** The committee is ready to organize StepTrek 2007. We are doing well and getting a lot of work done at the meetings. Sponsors and Honorary Chairperson are yet to be confirmed. This once a year event will be our seventh. There are new routes and features.

We consider ourselves as celebrating the most livable neighborhood in "the Most Livable City", as Pittsburgh recently received that honor for the second time (1985 & 2007). The next meeting should prove to be fruitful.

If you have any suggestions or ideas, contact us.



Paul Lorincy organized the group 5/5!

Membership News...

Everyone's membership is due January 1st! With your donations, we are able to keep neighbors informed and connected.

SSSNA Membership is \$5 for the 12 months that run from January 1st to December 31st. Thank you, so very much, for your support! As always, we welcome any additional donations. Please mail in your membership dues or bring them to the meeting. **April was last Newsletter, if you haven't renewed.**

We appreciate your support & hope that you enjoy our Newsletter and website.

2007 Memberships – Thank You!

Names will be listed in July's Newsletter.

If we don't have your email address, (you'll know as this newsletter will be attached to an email on 6/15) please email Bev at SSSNAPgh@aol.com so that you can receive our updates. SSSNA does not share the eblast list, nor do we email jokes!

SSSNA Membership 2007

Please mail \$5 to:
SSSNA P.O.Box 4248, Pgh., PA 15203

Or bring it to the next meeting

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Slopes Interests _____

Amount enclosed _____

Save a stamp, please just email me the newsletter each month. Check here _____

Mark Your Calendar!

All of the meetings are at 7:00pm located in the Main Lounge, upstairs, unless otherwise noted.

Typically, the meetings are held on the second Tuesday. The June meeting does not follow this pattern due to a scheduling conflict at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center noted below.

!!June 19th, 7:00pm – 3rd Tuesday

July 10th, 7:00pm**

August – No meeting

September 11th, 7:00pm

October 9th, 7:00pm

November 13th, 7:00pm

Dec. 11th, 7:00pm – *Christmas Party***

** denotes meeting in the Dining Room

!! denotes not on the second Tuesday

July 10th Picnic – help

We are preparing for our July "Picnic" meeting at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. The "staples" will be provided, if you want to bring a covered dish, contact Misi Bielich 412-537-6733.

SSSNA Tee shirts!



SOUTH SIDE
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We are selling SSSNA logo shirts for \$8 each or 2 for \$15 donation. They are great! We will have them at the meetings and they are available all year round. They come in S-M-L-XL white cotton preshrunk tees (adult "man" sizes). You can call Bev at 412-488-0486 to make arrangements for pick up.

Heads Up!

South Side Park Update

by Janice Serra

The City of Pittsburgh put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the reuse or redevelopment of The Neville Ice Arena area in the South Side Park. Let's hope for the best, but if things get serious we may need to take community action to save part of OUR SOUTH SIDE PARK.

The proposals were due May 21, 2007, but we do not yet know how many proposals were submitted or when the City will act. The South Side Planning Forum had asked the City for community representation on the proposal selection committee but the City said that choosing from the proposals is not open to the public. This means that we will have to wait to find out what the City has selected to go into our park. The SSLDC is still working to open up the selection committee to the two community representatives, Kevin Hanley of the SSLDC and Janice Serra of the SSSNA. The City asked for our input about how the proposals should be judged - we focused on neighborhood serving, park preserving criteria.

VERY SERIOUS ISSUE - The RFP allows for non-conforming use, which means something other than a park or public related use can go into the park. Even worse, the RFP allows FOR SALE of the Neville Ice Arena area. South Side Park is a very valuable asset to our community for many reasons - once gone it will not return to the people. South Side does a lot to make the City look good and the City should take care of our park. However, there can be other options for improving the park besides the City such as a fundraising campaign, grants and/or foundation sponsors. Or perhaps, the community may consider the value of a development in the park which provides funds and resources to make improvements to the rest of the park.

The SSSNA Board would like to hear your thoughts on this issue ASAP. Please send to janice.serra@southsideslopes.org or call Janice at 412-381-5855 for more information or if you would like to walk in the park to see what we are talking about. stay tuned....

For more details, call Bev at 412-488-0486.

Or contact us in writing:

PO Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 Thanks!

For detailed coverage of SSSNA meetings, please read Margie Smykla's article in the South Pittsburgh Reporter a free weekly paper available throughout South Side and South Pittsburgh.

Announcements...

Counseling and other Services available to residents of the South Side and Slopes

- Salvation Army
412-481-7900
- Cove Forge Drug and Alcohol
(Part of White Deer Run Assoc)
412-431-3363
- Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute
(Counseling Service) 412-661-1239
- Mercy Hospital South Side
(Counseling and other Services)
412-488-2258
- South Side Counseling and Consultation Inc. (No insurance needed)
412-488-1942

Lions Club by Dennis McCarthy

The Pittsburgh Deaf Blind Lions Club is made up of deaf, deaf blind and hearing sighted members. We established ourselves 12 years ago where we used to meet at St Johns Church on 14th Street, supporting people who were deaf and deaf blind. We decided to make ourselves the only deaf blind lions club in the world and we have decided to move back to the south side to help people who are in need of eye glasses, hearing aides and other items that our lions club can provide. But we need members to help us raise the funds necessary to support south side. This is where we needing your help if you can. We are hoping to get new members so that we can be able to give back to south side and the people who maybe in need. Anyone can contact Dennis McCarthy at 412-469-3200 x113 (w) or at home 412-751-8119.

***Mayor Ravenstahl & the firefighters are offering a free smoke detector to any City resident (owners or renters). Call 311 to request a free smoke detector. They contain a lithium battery which will last for at least 10 years! Be safe!**

**Please join us for Guest
Speaker Commander Ross
from Zone 3 Police on
Tuesday, June 19th at
7:00pm at the St. Paul of
the Cross Retreat Center,
148 Monastery
[enter from St. Paul St.]
See inside for details!**

Thank you to our Sponsors...

